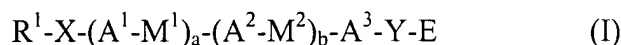


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A five-membered ring compound of the formula (I),



where the symbols and indices have the following meanings:

E is a radical T-Z-R² containing a five-membered ring, where:

(i) **T** is undirected and is
4-fluorothiophene-2,5-diyl, 3-fluorothiophene-2,5-diyl,
3-fluorothiophene-2,4-diyl or 5-fluorothiophene-2,4-diyl

Z is a single bond or -O-

R² is hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, where one nonterminal CH₂ group may be replaced by -O- or -OC(=O)- or -C(=O)O- and/or one or more H atoms may be replaced by F, with the provisos that
a) the -CH₂- group nearest to the thiophene cannot be replaced by -O- when Z is -O-
b) R² can only be hydrogen when Z is a single bond,

Y is -OC(=O)-, -OCH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-

a, b are each, independently of one another, 0 or 1

(ii) **T** is furan-2,5-diyl or furan-2,4-diyl

Z is a single bond or -O-

R² is a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, where one nonterminal CH₂

group nonadjacent to furan may be replaced by -O- or -OC(=O)- or -C(=O)O- and/or one or more H atoms may be replaced by F,

Y is -OC(=O)-, -OCH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-

a, b are each, independently of one another, 0 or 1

- (iii) **T** is undirected and is isoxazole-3,5-diyl
Z is a single bond or -O-
R² is hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, where one nonterminal CH₂ group may be replaced by -O- or -OC(=O)- or -C(=O)O- and/or one or more H atoms may be replaced by F, with the provisos that
a) the -CH₂- group nearest to the isoxazole cannot be replaced by -O- when Z is -O-
b) R² can only be hydrogen when Z is a single bond,

a is 1

b is 0 or 1

Y is -OC(=O)-, -OCH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-

- (iv) **T** is undirected and is thiazole-2,5-diyl or thiazole-2,4-diyl
Z is a single bond
R² is hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, where one nonterminal CH₂ group may be replaced by -O- or -OC(=O)- or -C(=O)O- and/or one or more H atoms may be replaced by F,

Y is -OC(=O)-, -OCH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-

a, b are each, independently of one another, 0 or 1

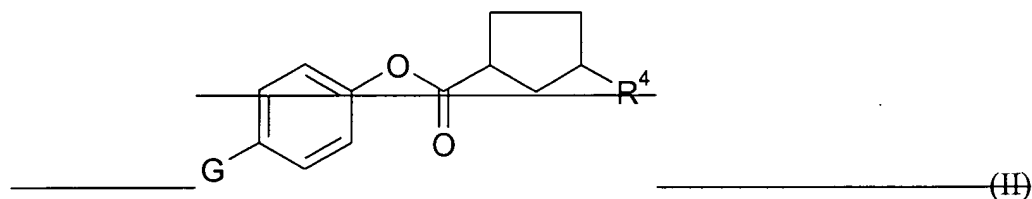
- (v) **T** is cyclopentane-1,3-diyl

~~Z~~ is a single bond or ~~O~~

~~R²~~ is hydrogen or a straight chain or branched alkyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, where one nonterminal CH₂ group may be replaced by ~~O~~ or ~~OC(=O)~~ or ~~C(=O)O~~ and/or one or more H atoms may be replaced by F, with the provisos that
a) the CH₂ group nearest to the cyclopentane cannot be replaced by ~~O~~ when Z is ~~O~~

b) ~~R²~~ can only be hydrogen when Z is a single bond,

with the exception of compounds of the formula (II)



in which

~~R⁴~~ is as defined for ~~R²~~

~~G~~ is trans 4 propyl cyclohexyl or trans 4 butyl cyclohexyl or an alkyl group of 1 to 15 carbon atoms, in which, in addition, one or more nonadjacent CH₂ groups may be replaced by ~~O~~, ~~CO~~, ~~OCO~~, ~~O CO O~~, ~~CHhalogen~~, ~~CHCN~~ and/or ~~CH=CH~~ or is F, CN,

(vi) T is cyclopentane-1,3-diyl, in which one -CH₂CH₂- or -CH₂CH- group is replaced by a -CH=CH- or CH=C- group respectively

Z is a single bond

R² is hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, where one nonterminal CH₂ group may be replaced by -O- or -OC(=O)- or -C(=O)O- and/or one or more H atoms may be replaced by F, with the proviso that the -CH₂- group nearest to the cyclopentene cannot be replaced and where

Y cannot be -CH₂-CH₂-,

a is 1

b is 0 or 1

Y is -OC(=O)-, -OCH₂-

R¹ is hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched C₁₋₂₀-alkyl or C₂₋₂₀-alkenyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms), where

- a) one or two nonterminal CH₂ groups may be replaced, independently of one another, by -O- or -C(=O)-, with the proviso that two adjacent CH₂ groups cannot be replaced in the same way, and/or
- b) one CH₂ group may be replaced by -C≡C-, and/or
- c) one CH₂ group may be replaced by -Si(CH₃)₂-, cyclopropane-1,2-diyl, cyclobutane-1,3-diyl, cyclopentane-1,4-diyl, bicyclo[1.1.1]pentane-1,3-diyl or cyclohexane-1,4-diyl, and/or
- d) one or more H atoms may be replaced by F and/or CN,
- e) in the case of a branched alkyl radical containing asymmetric carbon atoms, the asymmetric carbon atoms have -CH₃, -OCH₃, -CF₃, F, CN and/or Cl as substituents or are incorporated into a 3- to 7-membered ring, in which, in addition, one or two non-adjacent CH₂ groups may be replaced by -O- and one CH₂ group non-adjacent to these groups may be replaced by -OC(=O)-;

X is a single bond, -O-, OC(=O)-, -C(=O)O- or -OC(=O)O-

~~**Y** is -OC(=O)-, -OCH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-~~

A¹, A², A³ are each, independently of one another, phenylene-1,4-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN or F, phenylene-1,3-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN or F, cyclohexane-1,4-diyl, in which one or two H atoms may be replaced by CN and/or CH₃ and/or F, 1-cyclohexene-1,4-diyl, in which one H atom may be replaced by F, 1-alkyl-1-silacyclohexane-1,4-diyl, pyridine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, pyrimidine-2,5-

diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, cyclopentane-2,5-diyl or thiophene-2,5-diyl;

M^1 , M^2 are undirected and are each, independently of one another, -OC(=O)-, -OCH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-, -OC(=O)CH₂CH₂-, -OCH₂CH₂CH₂-, -C≡C-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂- or a single bond;

~~a, b are each, independently of one another, 0 or 1.~~

2. (Original) A liquid-crystal mixture comprising at least one compound of the formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.

3. (Original) A liquid-crystal mixture as claimed in claim 2, which comprises from 0.01 to 80% by weight of one or more compounds of the formula (I).

4. (Previously presented) A liquid-crystal mixture as claimed in claim 2, which is ferroelectric (chiral smectic).

5. (Previously presented) A liquid-crystal mixture as claimed in claim 2, which is nematic.

6. (Original) A ferroelectric switching and/or display device, which contains a ferroelectric liquid-crystal mixture as claimed in claim 4.

7. (Original) A ferroelectric switching and/or display device as claimed in claim 6, which contains active matrix elements and wherein the liquid-crystal layer forms a monostable monodomain.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)